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## ➤BOOK ❖ NOTICES.❖➤

### THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS OF WESTERN ASIA, VOL. IV.\*

After a delay of several years, the second edition of the IVth volume of Rawlinson has appeared. It has been welcomed by all Assyriologists for two chief reasons: (1) because Vol. IV., 1st ed., has been out of print for many years and hence unobtainable and (2) because the 2d ed. is so great an improvement on the 1st. In the present review, I will note some of the most important changes and additions.

Plates 1, 1\* and 2. These are the reproductions of plates 1 and 2 of the 1st ed., and they are expanded into three plates on account of the incompressibility of type. This has unfortunately necessitated the separation of the columns, and the arrangement of the reverse otherwise than on the tablet. The text, however, is much improved, the characters are better represented, and several mistakes have been corrected. Additions to the text are not numerous, but the 150 footnotes, mostly variants, are worthy of note.

Plates 3 and 4. These do not show any remarkable differences from the old edition other than the correction of mistakes, but in the "Additions and Corrections" some additional fragments of duplicates are reproduced. Some of the corrections had already been given by Brünnow and Zimmern.—In pls. 5 and 6 there are considerable additions and improvements in every column. There are numerous variants, supplemented by further fragments of duplicates in the Add. and Cor.—Plate 7 has not undergone many changes, but there are some important additions to the reverse (plate 8), supplemented in the Add. and Cor.—In plate 9 there are some important corrections, among which may be noted *ilu man-man* (l. 37, obv.) for the *ti u man* of the old ed.—Plate 10 has several corrections of the text, and spacing, in which great care has been taken. The importance of showing the spacing of the original in texts of this class is very great, repetitions being indicated by the uninscribed portions of certain lines.—Plate 11 shows also a considerable number of additions and corrections, taken from partial duplicates in the Akkadian language only. The reverse has been considerably improved; in fact, the comparison of the old sheet with the new is rather striking.—Plate 12 shows extensive augmentation, about a dozen lines having been completed and about thirty others added. Notwithstanding this, the name of the king has not come to light.

Passing plates 13 and 14, we see great changes in 15. The text is given in the original Babylonian character, instead of an Assyrian transcription, portions of col. I. obv. and II. rev. are introduced, and additional portions are given from duplicates in the Assyrian character. The text now occupies two plates. Considerably over a hundred variants are noted, adding greatly to the value of this

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\* THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS OF WESTERN ASIA. A selection from the Miscellaneous Inscriptions of Assyria. Prepared for publication under the direction of the Trustees of the British Museum by Major-General Sir Henry Rawlinson, Bart. Second edition. London: 1891.

edition.—Plate 18 shows considerable change, the publication of the additional columns (II. and III.) of No. 3 having necessitated two plates instead of one. The form of No. 1 is greatly improved and all the texts show corrections. Additional fragments of Nos. 2 and 3 are given in the Add. and Cor. In consequence of the additional space afforded by the fact that there are two plates instead of one, two other very interesting texts have been added, to one of which, after plate 18\* was printed off, a large additional fragment was found, necessitating the reproduction of the whole in the Add. and Cor. The new text, No. 6, is especially valuable on account of the names of animals which it contains.

Plate 21 has been expanded into two plates. Text No. 1, which occupies one col. in the old edition, takes up no less than three in the new. The additional columns are rather fragmentary, but the portion given in the old ed. is now fairly perfect, especially when the additions from S. 1128 (Add. and Cor.) are noted.

Plate 28 exhibits considerable change, the single sheet being enlarged to two. No. 1 is completed and the obv. and rev. are restored to their right positions. The colophon of No. 2 is added, No. 3 of the old ed. is accompanied by its obv., and considerable additions, added by Mr. Pinches to the old No. 4, are given in full, together with the obv. of the text. There are also variants at the foot of the page.

Plate 29 has grown from one to three (though it cannot be said that there is much on the last, No. 29\*). No. 1 is greatly improved, and additions from duplicate fragments have been made. Nos. 2 and 3 are, but for a few corrections, practically the same as in the old ed., but No. 4 has, in the new ed., a whole plate (29\*) to itself, as well as considerable additions among the Add. and Cor. This is now the most important text of its class. No. 5 is practically the same as in Haupt's *ASKT.*, in the correction of which, however, Mr. Pinches assisted.

Plate 31 is the Descent of Ishtar into Hades. The new text is an improvement on Geo. Smith's, wherever there was room for it. The few notes in the Add. and Cor. should not be overlooked.

The difference between the old and the new edition of plate 35 is remarkable. It is needless to say that the new is the better of the two, the style of the originals being imitated in every case, and corrections made. It is a pity that photolithography was adopted in the new edition, as it has not come out satisfactorily. Plates 36 and 37 of the old edition have, rightly or wrongly, been omitted from the new.

Plate 38 (the old 41) repeats the well-known text of Merodach-Baladan, and gives some improved readings. It is reproduced, however, by the unsatisfactory method of photolithography already mentioned. The transcription (the old 43) and the signs of the zodiac (the old 44) have been omitted. Plate 39 (the old 44 and 45), though done in the same way as 38, has come out much better. The characters are much better formed, and some corrections have been made in the text.

Plates 41 and 42 (the old 48 and 49) contain a large number of additions and corrections, together with over a hundred variants. It is the tale of Ishtar's courtship of Gilgameš, already published by Prof. Haupt in his *Nimrodepes*, with another fragment of the series.

Plates 43 and 44 (the old 50 and 51) give the best text that has yet been issued of the Babylonian account of the Deluge, the improvements on the old edition

being enormous. Over 200 variants are noted at the foot. A good idea of what the tablet was like when completed can be obtained now, the text being printed lengthwise, though the scale is, of course, much larger than that of the original.

Plates 45-47 (the old 52-54) contain proclamations and letters, and they show decided improvements. Nos. 2 and 3 on pl. 45, all three texts on plate 46, and Nos. 1 and 4 on pl. 47 are reproduced in the original Babylonian character, and are not transcribed into the Assyrian. The letter of Sennacherib (No. 3 on pl. 47) is probably the most interesting.

Plate 53 (the old 60) has a considerable number of improvements and corrections, and a small addition in col. II. The obv. and rev. are now put in their right position, and the long and interesting colophon has been restored.

In plate 61 (the old 68), the "oracle to Esarhaddon," no duplicate has been found to complete the text, but many lines have been greatly improved by a careful collation, as cols. III., IV. and VI. testify, and many minor improvements have been made. The last two plates, 62 and 63 (the old 69 and 70) give the great syllabary found by George Smith. In all, there are more than 10,000 lines of inscription in the book.

I would simply add in conclusion that the new edition is the work of Mr. Pinches. It seems to be the policy of the Trustees of the British Museum to do more publishing than heretofore. This is seen from the appearance of this volume by Mr. Pinches, the Catalogue (in two parts at present) of the Kouyunjik Collections by Dr. Bezold—noticed by me in the Oct.-Jan. number of *HEBRAICA*—and the *Tel-el-Amarna Tablets*, by Drs. Bezold and Budge. The present policy of the Trustees is, of course, specially gratifying to all Assyriologists.

ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER.

London, May 2d, 1892.

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## ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN LETTERS BELONGING TO THE K. COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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The historical inscriptions of Assyria and Babylonia have been, for the most part, carefully studied and translated. The more important texts hitherto published have been collated and fresh translations made by competent scholars during the last decade. No one can hope to add much to semitic science historically, or linguistically, by continuing to work over the old material. There are not a few passages in these inscriptions in which there is still uncertainty and others that are wholly obscure. The obscurities are mainly etymological and lexical and the aid necessary to their elucidation can be found only in new historical texts yet to be discovered, or, to a limited extent, in other branches of its copious literature, still imperfectly examined or wholly unknown. Assyriology in the future, more than in the past, must depend upon itself for its interpretation without, however, disdaining valuable suggestions yet to be received from Hebrew

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\* ASSYRIAN AND BABYLONIAN LETTERS BELONGING TO THE K. COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM, by Robert Francis Harper, of The University of Chicago.—Part I. The University of Chicago Press. *Luzac and Co.*, London. *D. C. Heath and Co.*, Chicago. 1892.